

Overcoming Darkness: Step 1 – Repentance, 4.3.16

Introduction

1. God wants us to live victoriously over the demonic realm. I am equipping you with a five step approach to help you live from that place.
 2. James 5.16 – the necessity of breaking agreement with sin & lies and coming into agreement with God is essential for healing.
 3. Neal Lozano’s book, Unbound, is the source of this study.
- I. Repentance is the beginning of overcoming the darkness.
- a. Jesus begins his ministry by proclaiming repentance – Mk.1.15– “The time promised by God has come at last!” he announced. “The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!”.
 - b. Believers sometimes have inaccurate views of repentance. What do you think of when you think of repentance?
 - b.i. It’s looking back at my sins and trying harder; it’s hard labor.
 - b.ii. As you look back, there is failure and regret.
 - b.iii. As you think ahead, there is dread over expected failure of will power and resolution. You think, “If I’d be more disciplined and try harder...but it probably won’t help.”
 - c. Biblical definition of repentance is broader.
 - c.i. Gk word “metanoia” – a change of mind that leads to a change in action.” It is aligning our thoughts with God’s thoughts. It is coming into agreement with God.
 - c.ii. Romans 12.1–2: Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you are able to prove His good and perfect will for you.
 - c.ii.1. The renewal of the mind is central to repentance. It involves the revelation and application of new truth and the purging of the old mindsets.

II. Repentance has three aspects.

- a. Great example of repentance – Matt.21.28–32: ²⁸“But what do you think about this? A man with two sons told the older boy, ‘Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹The son answered, ‘No, I won’t go,’ but later he changed his mind and went anyway. ³⁰Then the father told the other son, ‘You go,’ and he said, ‘Yes, sir, I will.’ But he didn’t go.

³¹“Which of the two obeyed his father?”

They replied, “The first.”^[a]

Then Jesus explained his meaning: “I tell you the truth, corrupt tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the Kingdom of God before you do. ³²For John the Baptist came and showed you the right way to live, but you didn’t believe him, while tax collectors and prostitutes did. And even when you saw this happening, you refused to believe him and repent of your sins.

b. Repentance for Conversion

- b.i. Coming to know the saving love of Jesus
- b.ii. Making a personal decision about Jesus
- b.iii. Living as a disciple of Jesus.

c. Repentance of sin

- c.i. Sin is disobedience
- c.ii. Sorrow and regret are not repentance
 - c.ii.1. Godly sorrow leads to repentance.
 - c.ii.2. Repentance of sins leads to life, not condemnation (2 Cor.7.9f.)
- c.iii. Confession is a necessary expression of repentance.
 - c.iii.1. Confession begins with the conviction of the HS as we begin to think differently about our sins.
 - c.iii.2. Humility with confession of sins yields transformation.
 - c.iii.2.a. Illust of dealing with the selfishness in my own life & acknowledging it to Stephanie.

c.iii.3. Confession puts us into a position of breaking agreement with Satan and being in agreement with God.

c.iii.3.a. Max Lucado writes: Confession does for the soul what preparing the land does for the field. Before the farmer sows the seed, he works the acreage, removing the rocks and pulling the stumps. He knows that seed grows better if the land is prepared. Confession is the act of inviting God to walk the acreage of our hearts...

d. Exposing deception

d.i. Deception is a part of every sin.

d.i.1. Sin entered the world through deception.

d.i.2. Jesus confirmed the role of deception on the cross – “Father forgive them they don’t know what they are doing.”

d.i.3. Deception keeps us from fully understanding how our sin offends God, affects others and impacts us.

d.ii. The father of lies has his hand in every sin through direct or indirect deception. We know enough to take responsibility, but we aren’t fully aware of the implication of our sins.

d.iii. Lies need to be exposed to the Light and then recognized and renounces.

e. Repentance is an invitation to freedom – Luke 15.

e.i. Ex. Of the Prodigal Son & Older Brother. See if you can identify with any of these sins.

e.i.1. Prodigal recognized his sin. He was rebellious (did the opposite of what he should have done), arrogant, (wouldn’t listen to his parents), sinful lifestyle, & poor stewardship. The prodigal recognized his sin; he turned back; and confessed it to his father. His identity was reaffirmed and his father’s love was freely given. With repentance, we typically focus on the recognition, turning and confessional aspects of it. But, there is another critical dimension, the restoration and love sides are enormous. If

we just have the first side, then we win the war, but we don't experience the spoils. We're soldiers left fatigued with no sense of ultimate joy.

- e.i.2. The Older Brother. He did the right thing for the wrong reasons. He looked obedient on the outside, but something was deeply wrong on the inside. He was a legalist – found God's acceptance by conforming to a set of rules; self righteous – he deserved certain things b/c of his behavior; pride – he wasn't like his sinful brother...we pretend to be better than we actually are; judgemental – he had a superior attitude and showed little grace and he was critical...he had locked his brother into a particular way of thinking; self pity – wanted compassion and sympathy more than he wanted to take responsibility for his heart; bitterness and unforgiveness – responding to life's pain with anger and resentment. (Sometimes we don't want to forgive b/c it insulates us from further hurt).
- e.i.3. The Big Lie – They both were deceived about the relationship with their father. They saw themselves as servants rather than sons.
- e.i.4. They both needed a change of mind about their relationship with their father.

III. Guidelines for overcoming the darkness:

- a. Ask God for a revelation about a lie you are believing or a sin you are committing.
 - a.i. HS revealed to me an area in my life that wasn't God's best for me.
 - a.ii. Seek him and the truth
 - a.iii. Respond honestly to the revelation. Honesty breaks the darkness of the lies and opens us to God's healing work. There can't be breakthrough w/o honesty.
- b. Breakthrough is a process.

- c. Understand that God uses circumstances we cannot fix, questions we cannot answer and problems we cannot solve to expose the condition of our heart.
- d. Our children reveal sin in our life – controlling through manipulation, fear or shame; the type of love we have; the depth of our grace; whether or not we have a forgiving spirit.
- e. Our marriage reveals the hidden “buttons” that need to be exposed; our selfishness and pride; unwillingness to admit mistakes and how little we want to serve.